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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 19, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 14 totaled an estimated 17.2 billion ton-miles, 1.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 7 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 121 billion ton-miles, 1.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 14 totaled 416,647 cars, 6.1 percent below 1980, and 2.6 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 0.6 percent in the East, 6.6 percent in the South, and, 9.3 in the West. Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 13,392 cars, or 13.3 percent, and metallic ores 1,236 cars, or 5.6 percent. Sixteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended February 7 totaled 32,487 cars, down 5.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 58,789 trailers and/or containers, 5.9 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 6 weeks of the year was 177,936 cars, 8.6 percent lower than last year, and 321,144 trailers and/or containers, down 8.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 02/14/81:

	Loadings in Week ended February 14, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,873	D	1,561	5.1	D	6,425	18.2
Other farm products	3,561	D	1,185	25.0	D	175	4.7
Metallic ores	23,292	I	1,236	5.6	D	1,473	6.0
Coal	113,925	I	13,392	13.3	I	2,845	2.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,064	D	2,412	19.3	D	317	3 1
Nonmetallic minerals	12,647	D	1,427	10.1	D	830	6.2
Grain mill products	16,363	D	2,559	13.5	I	244	1.5
Food and kindred products	16,344	D	3,220	16.5	D	601	3.6
Primary forest products	17,824	D	2,787	13.5	D	801	4.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,223	D	2,783	25.3	D	183	2.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,631	D	2,149	9.9	D	812	4.0
Chemicals and allied products	27,992	D	1,426	4.8	I	897	3.3
Petroleum products	5,625	D	1,334	19.2	D	475	7.8
Stone, clay and glass products	12,734	D	2,722	17.6	D	389	3.0
Coke	6,703	I	154	2.4	I	269	4.2
Metals and products	15,846	D	2,038	11.4	D	523	3.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,833	D	5,189	25.9	D	1,114	7.0
Waste and scrap materials	12,144	D	2,168	15.1	D	29	0.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,882	D	1,719	14.8	D	632	6.0
All other carloads	39,878	D	5,192	11.5	D	415	1.0
LCL traffic	263	I	7	2.7	I	2	0.8
Total Cars Loaded	416,647	D	27,082	6.1	D	10,937	2.6
Corresponding week of 1980	443,729						

	1981	1980		% Change
Total Cars Loaded (7 weeks)	2,894,812	3,012,056	D	3.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
6 Weeks cumulative	103.4	101.4	I	2.0
Week ended February 14	17.2	17.5	D	1.6
7 Weeks cumulative	120.6	118.9	I	1.5

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